

REMARKS

By the above actions, claim 96 has been amended. In view of the actions taken and the following remarks, reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claims 96-102, 106, 107, & 109-113 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102 as being anticipated by the disclosure of the Lee patent while claims 103 & 104 have been found unpatentable under § 103 over the combined teachings of the Lee and Fleming references, while claim 105 has been found to be unpatentable over the combined teachings of the Lee and Kawabe patents and claim 8 based upon the combined teachings of the Lee and the Landry patent application publication. These rejections are inappropriate for the following reasons.

The Examiner's assessment of the disclosure of Lee with regard to the pending claims is inappropriate because the terms "front surface," "side edge faces" and "rear surface" are clearly defined to be surfaces of the housing of the digital computer according to feature a) of claim 96.

Thus, it appears that the Examiner has misinterpreted the disclosure of Lee because Lee fails to disclose an input means that is movable from a position accessible at the front face of the computer to one that is accessible on either the side edge faces or on the rear surface of the housing of the digital computer instead of at the front face of the computer. The input means of the detachable input device of Lee are always disposed on the front surface of the housing of the digital computer (which is facing the user viewing the display) when the input device is in engagement with the housing.

It is also pointed out that the subject matter of the invention (as represented by amended claim 96) combines:

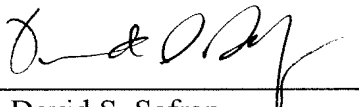
- a detachable input device
 - which may be used while being engaged in the housing (Figs. 1a & 2c1-c2)
 - or while being disengaged from the housing (Figs. 1c, 2h, 3d1-d2, 8c, 11b, 12b, 14b1)
- with the additional function of being used as an input device offering additional input capabilities on the rear side (Fig. 2d, 3a2-b1, 4c, 6b-c, 22c, 27) and/ or on a side edge face (paragraph [00124]) of the digital computer while being engaged in the housing

Lee discloses only the first of these two points, but not the second one. Furthermore, the second important feature is not disclosed by any of the other cited documents of Kawabe, Landry or Fleming. Thus, all of the rejections of the claims should be now be withdrawn.

As for the prior art that has been cited, but not applied against the claims, none of these references are believed to affect the patentability of the claims. Thus, no detailed comments on the unapplied prior art is considered to be warranted at this time.

Therefore, in the absence of new and more relevant prior art being discovered, this application should now be in condition for allowance and action to that effect is requested. However, while it is believed that this application should now be in condition for allowance, in the event that any issues should remain, or any new issues arise, after consideration of this response which could be addressed through discussions with the undersigned, then the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned by telephone for the purpose of resolving any such issue and thereby facilitating prompt approval of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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